



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service (NPS)'s intention to fund a Task Agreement against an existing Master Agreement.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	NPS-NOIP15AS00203
Project Title	National Park Service-Preparing Natural Resource Condition Assessments (NRCAs) for Seven Intermountain Region Park Units
Recipient	Utah State University
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$189,971
Cost Share	<i>None Required</i>
Anticipated Length of Agreement	Through June 30, 2019
Anticipated Period of Performance	Through June 30, 2019
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement (task award)
Statutory Authority	<i>54 U.S.C. §100703, Cooperative Study Units</i>
CFDA # and Title	<i>15.945, Cooperative Research & Training Programs</i>
Point of Contact	Katie Gaertner, Grants Management Specialist

OVERVIEW, RECIPIENT AND NPS SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

The Utah State University (USU) will collaborate with the National Park Service (NPS) by identifying sources of information, defining (an) appropriate resource assessment structure(s), identifying appropriately scaled resources, issues, threats, and stressors, identifying indicators for these resources, draft preliminary ecological framework from the Northern and Southern Colorado Plateau Inventory and Monitoring Networks (NCPN, SCPN) Vital Signs Monitoring Plans, identify park-specific information needs or management concerns, and conduct the natural resource condition assessments.

Substantial involvement on the part the National Park Service (NPS) is anticipated for the successful completion of the objectives to be funded by this award. NPS staff will participate in project development and planning,

review interim and final products, participate in ecological assessments, provide overview and orientation associated with all park visits including: briefings on safety procedures; introductions to park staff; and logistical support for field work operations, which include coordination with the park and making safety a priority, assist with safe undertaking of fieldwork and provide NPS source data and information where available.

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

The cooperator is a member of an established Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) network, and was awarded a Cooperative Agreement (P14AC00749) allowing USU to participate in specific tasks, and can provide the necessary activities involved in this particular task while providing an effective outcome for the National Park Service and the research and/or education project. Three members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) network were considered for this award and the USU was selected based on the PI's (Mark Brunson) understanding of how to apply scientific findings to management application, extensive previous experience conducting NRCA projects for national parks, and breadth of expertise to draw upon at the university.